

Dear Connecticut Lawmakers,

I am writing to express my strong support for bill 132.

Fireworks have a long American tradition. As Connecticut has now legalized other formerly banned activities such as cannabis and sports betting I feel that legalization of 1.4 class Common Fireworks would present a much lower administrative effort than either of those activities.

The facts are that fireworks are very popular and they cause far less injuries than more common activities such as basketball and bicycling.

I would like to suggest a few basic additions to enhance the safety and pleasure of all state residents:

1. In keeping with many town noise ordinances, fireworks should only be allowed until 10pm, except New Years eve and Independence day.
2. Education of the public is vital to keeping this activity safe. I would suggest to set up a state website with a short educational video on how to use fireworks. There are national organizations that already have these videos.
3. Most private fireworks accidents are caused by bad decisions made while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The user must never be found to be guilty of this act. The penalty for this should be made severe.
4. A standard minimum distance from the intended audience and buildings is not mentioned and should be required. I suggest 75 feet as this is found in the National Fire Protection Association code for Consumer Fireworks.

This bill has the capacity to be very safe and please many people without adding an entire new department with added responsibilities to the burden of state agencies.

Therefore I heartily support Bill 132.

Deane Williams
Farmington, CT